

its current schedule of operations. Air India has placed order with M/s Boeing Company for acquisition of two B 747-400 aircraft as part of the exercise to renew its fleet and partially to augment capacity.

Creation of Tourism Task Force

956. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Tourism Task Force was created by the India Tourism Development Corporation in 1991,

(b) if so, the objectives therefor,

(c) the expenditure incurred on the above Force so far,

(d) the extent to which the said Tourism Task Force has achieved the objectives, and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA)

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Tourism Task Force was set-up in May 1991 with the primary objective of promoting camping tourism, adventure tourism and tourism to new destinations.

(c) A total amount of Rs. 147.48 lakhs was incurred on the Tourism Task Force upto closure of the Tourism Task Force in Dec. 1994.

(d) and (e) The Tourism Task Force has met its objectives of promoting camping and adventure tourism by introducing the concept and providing necessary expertise to the State Governments to set up similar camps, organise fairs and festivals and promote unique destinations.

Concession in Telephone Tariff in Hilly Areas

957. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have announced significant concession in telephone tariff to PCO operators in rural and hilly areas,

(b) if so, the main features of the new package,

(c) whether this concession package has created a large amount of revenue loss to the Union Government, and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir. No tariff concessions to PCO operators in rural and hilly areas have been announced by the Government.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

EPF Scheme

958. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend Employees Provident Fund scheme for labourers in unorganised sector, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is applicable to factories/establishments employing 20 or more persons. In the matter of coverage and entitlement to benefits, the Act makes no discrimination between organised and unorganised sectors. As such, all the establishments employing 20 or more persons in the unorganised sector are already coverable under the EPF Scheme.

[Translation]

Serials of Freedom Fighters

959. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to telecast a serial based on the lives of the leading spirits of the freedom fighters in Bihar;

(b) whether the Government have received such proposals from the State; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Doordarshan has decided to telecast suitable programmes based on the lives and activities of freedom fighters as a part of celebration of 50 years of India's Independence. For production of such softwares, Doordarshan is receiving proposals from outside producers. Proposals based on freedom fighters from Bihar will also be considered along with others.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Rented Buildings

960. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 1458 on March 12, 1996 regarding rented buildings and state

(a) whether the required information has since been collected and laid on the table of the House,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason for delay in collecting the information?